

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

CCO-00 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 SY-10 SCA-01

EB-11 AID-20 DRC-01 /211 W
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R 021331Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5016

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD

S E C R E T BEIRUT 12705

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, JO, LE, XF

SUBJECT: CONTINUING FEDAYEEN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

REF: BEIRUT 12624

BEGIN SUMMARY: RELIABLE PRESS AND PRO-FEDAYEEN SOURCES HAVE
CONFIRMED SOV PROPOSAL TO PLO ON LATTER'S POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION
IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS. DISCUSSIONS ON PARTICIPATION AMONG
FEDAYEEN AND OTHER PALESTINIAN NOTABLES LIKELY BE PROTRACTED

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ALTHOUGH DOMINANT SENTIMENT FAVORS IDEA OF INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN

STATE FOR WEST BANK/GAZA. GOL CONCERNED OVER POSITIONS ARAB STATES WILL ADOPT ON PALESTINIAN ISSUE, AND SERIOUSLY WORRIED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT SUCCEED IN FINDING FORMULA WHICH AT LEAST MAJORITY OF FEDAYEEN LEADERSHIP CAN ACCEPT. IN LATTER CASE, GOL FEARS OUTBREAK SERIOUS VOLIENCE AND TERRORISM BY FEDAYEEN HERE AND ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. INDEPENDENT AN NAHAR NOV 1 PUBLISHED TEXT OF VERBAL MESSAGE ALLEGEDLY DELIVERED TO 'ARAFAT BY SOV EMBASSY OCT 29:

QTE: SOVIET UNION IS WORKING TO HAVE INVITATION EXTENDED TO PLO TO ATTEND PROPOSED ME PEACE CONFERENCE WHEN FINAL AGREEMENT IS REACHED AMONG THE PARTIES TO HOLD SUCH CONFERENCE. USSR CONSIDERS PLO AMONG THE REP OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, AND IT DESIRES THAT PALESTINIANS NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE PEACE CONFERENCE. END QTE.

2. RELIABLE PRESS AND PRO-FEDAYEEN SOURCES ASSURE US THAT THIS TEXT IS GENERALLY CORRECT AND THAT SOV EMBASSY ALSO PRESSING PLO TO DEFINE ITS POSITION ON NATURE PALESTINE STATE AND TO SUPPORT SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN EFFORTS CONCLUDE JUST PEACE SETTLEMENT BASED ON SC RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

3. INTENSE DISCUSSION OF PALESTINIAN POSTION RE PEACE TALKS CONTINUING WITHIN FEDAYEEN AND INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN CIRCLES HERE, ALTHOUGH INITIAL URGENCY IN REACHING AGREED POSITION SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SENTIMENT THAT IS NOT SUITABLE TIME FOR DECLARING OFFICIAL PLO POSITION. MAJORITY OPINION AT PRESENT (INCLUDING THAT OF 'ARAFAT) IS STILL FOR PARTICIPATION ON BASIS INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE ALTHOUGH EFFORT FINALIZE AN OFFICIAL POSITION UNLIKELY BEFORE THERE ARE CLEARER INDICATION THAT: (A) PEACE TALKS WILL BE HELD; (B) KEY ARAB GOVTS WILL SUPPORT PLO; (C) PLO CAN REACH SOME UNDERSTANDING WITH OTHER PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND CAN PROTECT ITSELF AGAINST ATTACK BY EXTREMISTS AMONG FEDAYEEN. THERE ARE REPORTS OF CONTACTS BETWEEN VARIOUS FEDAYEEN LEADERS AND ARAB GOVTS, AS WELL AS INTENTION OF 'ARAFAT VISIT MOSCOW.

4. IN DISCUSSING PROBLEM WITH KEY OFFICIALS, WE FIND THEY ARE CONCERNED OVER EFFECT ON FEDAYEEN SHOULD PEACE TALKS NOT MATERIALIZE DESPITE MAJOR EFFORT BY USG; OR SHOULD LEADERS IN FUTURE SETTLEMENT. LEBANESE FULLY AWARE OF DIFFICULT
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NATURE PALESTINE PROBLEM AND SEE IT MUCH AS REPORTED OUR 12586. THEY BELIEVE THAT AT VERY MINIMUM SOME VARIATION OF HUSSEIN PLAN, WITH PROSPECTS OF MEANINGFUL FUTURE ROLE FOR 'ARFAT AND OTHER "MODERATE" FEDAYEEN, ESSENTIAL IF PRESENT FEDAYEEN RESTRAINT IS TO BE MAINTAINED AND EXTREMISTS CIRCUMSCRIBED. IF PEACE TALKS FAIL TO MATERIALIZE OR PRODUCE NOTHING FOR FEDAYEEN LEADERS, GOL OFFICIALS EXPECT TO SEE EXPLOSION OF FEDAYEEN VIOLENCE DIRECTED NOT ONLY AT ISRAEL AND AMERICAN

TARGETS BUT ALSO AT REASONABLE ARAB LEADERS WHOM FEDAYEEN
WILL ACCUSE OF TRYING BETRAY ARAB CAUSE. LEBANESE FEAR THAT
EVEN OVERLY-LONG DELAY IN CONVENING PEACE TALKS COULD LEAD
MORE EXTREMIST FEDAYEEN, WITH SUPPORT OF ARAB REGIMES HOSTILE
TO SC RESES 242 AND 338, TO TRY AND DISRUPT CEASE-FIRE BY
RENEWING OPERATIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON AND DISRUPT PROGRESS
TOWARD PEACE TALKS BY NEW WAVE OF TERRORISM.
BUFFUM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO

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NNN

Message Attributes

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